

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☐

Property Name: Ringgold House Inventory Number: AA-92  
Address: 7865 Brock Bridge Road City: Jessup Zip Code: 20794  
County: Anne Arundel USGS Topographic Map: Savage  
Owner: Clarks 100 II, LLC (COPT) Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes  
Tax Parcel Number: 179 Tax Map Number: 13 Tax Account ID Number: 04-000-0396000  
Project: Clarks 100 Agency: Corporate Office Properties Trust  
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☐ no ☐ yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ no

*If the property is within a district*

District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)*

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☐ yes ☒ no

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Located on the east side of Brock Bridge Road and south of the intersection with MD 175 is the Ringgold House (AA-92), a circa 1840-1885 structure constructed in the Italianate style. Jessup is known for its collection of outstanding Italianate houses and the Ringgold House is one of the three remaining examples (Trusty Friend AA-123, and the Linthicum House AA-91 are also mentioned in the MIHP form).

Access to the Ringgold House is via a cedar and oak tree-lined driveway from Brock Bridge Road. A small concrete curb clad with brick lines part of the driveway. Based on the size of the trees, the plants are estimated to be about eighty-years old. While MD 175 is populated with a mixture of houses and businesses representing 19th century homes to very recent construction, Brock Bridge Road is less dense and consists of just a few properties before reaching the Maryland Correctional Center and has a more rural feel. The Ringgold House is situated on an expansive, flat lot. Outside of the tree-lined driveway, other landscape features include several large oak trees and worn paths between the house and its detached, rear, three-car garage, and worn paths to the remains of an outbuilding. Clipped shrubs are located by the porch foundation. Shrubs also line the old driveway that leads from the house to the three-car garage.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☐ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments: Exceptionally elaborate example of Italianate style.

Jonathan Sager  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

8/20/09  
Date

B. Kintz  
Reviewer, NR Program

8/12/09  
Date

200903144

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Continuation Sheet No. 1

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The structure is a 2 ½ story, 5-bay frame house with a curved hipped roof. The hipped roof is broken by dormer windows. Centered on the second story of the facade is a prominent rectangular tower featuring a curved hipped roof that is architecturally reminiscent of an Italian Villa. The tower is unique in the sense that it is actually located on the facade as opposed to alongside it, as is the case on most examples of Italianate houses with this feature. The front facade faces west towards Brock Bridge Road and gives an impressive view from the driveway.

The projecting front door appears to be original and is surrounded by sidelights and a transom. The windows on the lower level are floor to ceiling triple hung sash six-over-six-over-six so that they open up onto the full length front porch. The five windows on the second story are six-over-six double hung sash. None of the windows appear to be original. The front porch is supported by six square chamfered posts. Brackets are found under the eave of the porch, and paired corbel brackets are located under the eaves of the roof. The two dormer windows are rounded arches, and a circular window is found on the attic level in the rectangular tower. The windows in the tower that extend above the roof line consist of a ribbon of rounded arched windows. Paired brackets are located in each corner of the tower.

To the rear of the house are two notable additions: one being a 2-story gabled extension ("kitchen wing") along the southwest portion of the rear elevation and another, much larger, extension with a gambrel roof across the remainder of the rear elevation. The gabled addition features vinyl and wood shingle siding, a porch on the west elevation that is supported by wood columns and pilasters and which appears to have been partially enclosed, a picture window on the enclosed portion of the porch, a non-historic window on the south elevation, a set of wood stairs leading to the second story, and a walk-up cellar with exterior access via a covered stairwell. The gambrel addition consists of vinyl and wood shingle siding; multiple 6/6 and 8/8 double-hung windows; a large bay window on the lower level; and a walk-up basement with exterior access via a covered stairwell. The basement in the gambrel addition also features wood floors, wood siding along the walls, a singular window along the north wall, and 2X6 wood beams supporting the floor above.

The cellar on the gabled wing, however, is somewhat different in terms of the materials used in its construction. There is a stone foundation behind the basement wall piers. The cellar appears to have been dug out and reinforced with concrete block at a later date. The beams supporting the floor above consist of both 2X6 wood beams and large, round, rough-hewn logs and suggest a construction method somewhat similar to the braced-frame method used in the early nineteenth century. The log and hewn joists appear to be original to the floor framing while the circular and sash sawn boards appear to be sistered to the original joists at a later date for structural reinforcement. The beams run in an east/west orientation across the ceiling. The fact that round logs are used in the construction of this basement suggests that the gabled addition, is at least contemporaneous with the Ringgold House and might even predate it (thus further suggesting that the "front" or Italianate portion of the house is the real "addition"). It should be noted, also, that the log joists are only found in the framing in this wing.

Despite extensive research undertaken on the property, no information was found documenting a precise date of construction for the Ringgold House. This research consisted of analysis of the property's original land grant, dating from 1753; examination of the property's chain-of-title dating from 1857; a review of information found in the tax assessor's record for the property; and a close reading of local historical accounts of the Jessup area. The Ringgold House appears to have been constructed over three major building campaigns, the first section being constructed in the first half of the nineteenth century as speculative house, the second period being the 1850-1870 Italianate house, and the third being the large gambrel addition in the early twentieth century.

The first section of the house was a small, two-story gable house with an exterior brick chimney and hand-hewn timber framing that likely dates to the 1840s. The chimney can be seen at the southeast end of the Italianate House. The hand-hewn framing is still present in the cellar of this small, rear portion of the house. The cellar is accessed through an outdoor, covered entry that has Greek Revival features such as square columns and a triangular pediment with dentils in the gable trim. The rough-laid field stone foundation to the wing is behind more modern concrete block wall on the east elevation. The framing visible in the cellar is constructed of very rough-hewn timbers, distinguished by the regular axe markings and uneven nature of the timbers.<sup>1</sup> The original framing has since been reinforced with framing that was cut with a circular saw. The framing under

<sup>1</sup> Lanier, Gabrielle M. and Herman, Bernard L.. Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997. pp. 77-81.

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the rest of the house appears to be circular sawn. This oldest section has a two-room plan on each story and is accessed from rear of the main house.

There are a number of other indications of the former configuration of the gable structure that suggest it predates the Italianate section of the house. First, there are several openings on the first and second story that appear to have formally been windows. On the first story there is one opening that is now closed off by the paneling in the adjacent room which is part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century addition. On the second story there are two deep bookcases/shelves on what are now interior walls. The depth of these shelves, shape, and location directly across from existing exterior windows indicated that these openings were formerly windows and were closed off and converted to shelves when the twentieth century addition was constructed. There is a considerable height difference between the rooms in the large Italianate house and the "kitchen wing," paired with the step down into the "kitchen wing" on the second story. All of the openings on what would have been exterior walls are very thick (considerably thicker than the interior walls) and have large, often hewn framing posts on either side.

The exterior and framing of this "wing" provides more clues about the early construction. On the exterior, behind the wood shingles, there is clapboard siding with an unusual break above the basement steps and adjacent to the window on the southeast elevation. Wood shingles over clapboard with wire nails appear on the southeast exterior elevation as well as behind what are now interior walls on the first and second story of the northeast elevation. The wall construction on the first and second floor is hewn log framing. On the second story there is circular sawn lath and plaster with wire and cute nails behind the drywall on the exterior walls. There is thin, vertical board behind the drywall on an interior wall on the first story. The rafters are rough hewn timbers joined at the top with no collar ties or ridgeboard. There are gable end studs which are also rough hewn. The joists are not completely visible due to the insulation in the attic. The rafters are covered with large, vertical boards that are not uniformly cut. There is a more modern circular sawn false plate by the joists and vertical braces supporting the rafters near the peak. (Photo 12) Given the method and materials, the original construction of this roof appears to be earlier than that of the Italianate house, which contains all sawn lumber. The framing in this part of the attic dates to the early nineteenth century.<sup>2</sup> There are cut nails in the roof, which would also establish a date in the mid-nineteenth century.<sup>3</sup> The drywall, baseboard, and paint on the surface all match the Italianate house, which suggests that the interior of the "kitchen wing" was refinished at some point to match the main house.

There is a one story, partially enclosed porch off the south elevation of this section which may have originally been an open porch. The porch is clad in wood shingles and covered with vinyl siding, but has Italianate details, suggesting that it was added or modified during the second period of construction. While some speculate that this was a summer kitchen that was contemporary with the main house, the simplistic design and construction materials indicate that this was the first stage in the building campaign of the Ringgold House.<sup>4</sup>

The second building period of the Ringgold House was constructed between 1853 when the land from "Thomas and Elizabeth" was patented and 1874 when a letter was written from Anne Arundel County mentioning the house as one of note in the area.<sup>5</sup> It is an example of a centered tower Italianate home, a symmetrical form which was unusual for the Italianate movement. A more common tower placement was connecting the principal section of the house with a wing to create an L-shaped plan.<sup>6</sup> This form was more common in the Second Empire Style an early Victorian form; know for its mansard roofs with dormers placed on the steep slope.<sup>7</sup> The roof on the Ringgold House has a small deck atop it, and dormers on the steep hipped slope. The Second Empire style was established in 1855 and shares many of the late Italianate features.<sup>8</sup> Both were part of the picturesque movement which swept the nation prior to the Civil War. The movement was reactionary to the more classical

<sup>2</sup> Lanier, Gabrielle M. and Herman, Bernard L.. Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997. pp. 114.

<sup>3</sup> Lanier, Gabrielle M. and Herman, Bernard L.. Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997. pp. 94.

<sup>4</sup> McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005. pp. 20-31.

<sup>5</sup> "Letters from Anne Arundel County. Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun Jessup's Cut, October 21, 1874." Vertical file at the Anne Arundel County Historical Society.

<sup>6</sup> McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005. pp. 211-224.

<sup>7</sup> McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005. pp. 241-242.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.



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styles which had dominated architecture for the two previous centuries. Italianate homes sought to copy rural Italian farmhouses and villas with square towers and rambling plans.<sup>9</sup> Patterns for these picturesque houses appeared in the pattern books of Andrew Jackson Downing in the 1840s and 1850s. The Ringgold House, Trusty Friend, and several other nearby homes are the few remaining examples of the Italianate style in Anne Arundel County.<sup>10</sup> Given the style of construction and the history of the parcel, it is unlikely that the Italianate portion of the Ringgold House was constructed prior to 1850.

By the 1870s, the Italianate style was no longer a dominant style as the Civil War left many people without the means to build extravagant housing.<sup>11</sup> This was particularly true of the southern states. Rural homes took simpler forms during this period.

The last major section of the house is of twentieth century construction. This portion of the house is the large gambrel addition that projects from the south elevation of the Italianate section. According to tax assessor's records from the time, this addition was likely constructed in the 1920s. Wide, shallow gambrel roofs, such as the one on this addition, were more common in the twentieth century. There is a small, one story addition off the east elevation of this addition which has a large bay window of twentieth century construction. There is a second cellar under this portion of the house which is accessed from the north side of the house through an outdoor stairwell.

Though the house was built over several periods, the house was initially wrapped to reflect the Italianate style, as window frames, siding, and bracketed eaves are consistently used throughout the house. The house has also undergone material alterations, including the placement of a secondary sheathing of vinyl siding over the original wood shingles. Still, the construction methods and materials for the house as well as the history of the development of the parcel and the area of Jessup show that the house had three building periods, the earliest of which took place in the by 1840, the second between 1850 and 1870, and the third in the early twentieth century.

Thus, the chronology of the Ringgold House is presented as:

- Rear gabled addition or "kitchen wing": circa 1840
- Italianate, or "front" section: circa 1853-1874
- Rear gambrel addition: circa 1920

Regardless of their actual dates of construction, neither of the rear the "kitchen wing" nor the gambrel addition really contribute to the overall architectural integrity of the Ringgold House, which would be most significant for its Italianate features. While the cellar and basement on these sections are somewhat unique, the wing and addition overall, particularly the gabled wing, have been substantially modified in terms of both their original designs and materials. Features such as vinyl siding, non-historic windows, variations in foundation materials, stairs that lead to nowhere (on the gabled addition), and the way in which these two additions are connected to one another, obscure the respective designs and, to a lesser extent, historic functions, of these additions and are a far cry from the symmetry and ornamentation of the front portion of the Ringgold House.

Remains of the outbuildings were still noticeable as piles of rotting lumber in 2008 but were gone by April of 2009. The three-car-garage (also a gambrel structure) is located to the rear of the house.

Much of the history of Jessup was written by G. Marie Biggs in her book "The Story of Jessup" published in 1952 and later in 1977.

The original land grant in the area of Jessup was Trusty Friend patented to Charles Carroll in 1753 which contained 3,050 acres. Most of the land on the southwest side of MD 175 was included in this tract. The Ringgold House is located on a tract of land known as "Thomas and Elizabeth" that was patented in 1853 by William A. Amos and sold to Asa Linthicum and his wife in a deed dated October 31, 1857. The Thomas and Elizabeth patented contained 411 ½ acres. According to the patent, William Worthington attempted to patent the land as early as 1834, prior to the construction of the Baltimore and Ohio

<sup>9</sup> McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005. pp. 211-224 and 241-242.

<sup>10</sup> Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form for Trusty Friend (AA-123).

<sup>11</sup> McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005. pp. 214.

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Railroad.<sup>12</sup> As noted by G. Marie Biggs in her book "The Story of Jessup," the construction of the railroad in the 1840s brought land speculation. In many cases, landholders had to make improvements on their parcels in order to maintain them, as was the case around Baltimore.<sup>13</sup> The earliest section of the house may date to this time. With the addition of a railroad station in the 1840s, sawn lumber would be more readily available to new builders; however, early speculators would have to rely on a local mill.

The "Thomas and Elizabeth" patent name is found throughout the deeds concerning this particular parcel that the Ringgold House is situated. After purchasing the property from William A. Amos in 1857, Asa Linthicum and his wife owned the property until 1880.<sup>14</sup> It was likely that the Linthicum family constructed this and another nearby home in the Italianate Style during the period of 1857 to 1880. The house first appears on the 1878 Martinet Map and is again clearly visible on the 1907 USGS map of the area. The house passes hand again in 1906, 1908, 1912, and 1922, following the construction of the third portion of the house in 1920.<sup>15</sup> The home was sold in 1946 to the Purkens family, who owned the property until 2007. When the property was originally identified as the Ringgold House on the MIHP form (AA-92), the author made reference to an 1878 Hopkins Map, which upon closer inspection revealed that the house actually belonged to Asa Linthicum and that the Ringgold property was located to the southeast. As the property never actually passed through the hands of Walter S. Ringgold, it seems the name of the property is incorrect.

#### 1820-1850

Ms. Biggs states that Jessup is not considered a railroad town, and it is not unreasonable to believe that there were scattered farms in the nearby vicinity prior to 1830. By 1820, nearby US Route 1 had been widened to a 60-foot right-of-way as it was the major stagecoach thoroughfare between Baltimore and Georgetown. However, most of the recorded history about the area starts with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad laying tracks through the middle of the community. There were three ridges from the Thomas Viaduct in Elkridge to the present day Jessup that needed to be cut in order to construct the stem to Washington. If the bed was too steep, the trains would not be able to successfully climb the ridge. Approximately 40 to 50 feet of ground needed to be cut. One of the contractors who had worked on the Main Stem (Baltimore to Ellicott City) of the railroad was Jonathan Jessup and he was assigned to complete the two mile task. The excavation became known as "Jessops Cut." This cut required the displacement of over 270,000 cubic yards of earth, which was quite an engineering feat considering the amount of labor and the type of tools available in 1833. Even though the town had various names (often matching the surname of the Post Master) the area was often referred to as "Jessops" or "Jessops Cut." The name of the town was changed various times and finally settled in 1963 with Jessup.

#### 1850-1860

Ms. Biggs stated in her book that during the Civil War, there was "Jessup Army Camp." This camp was for soldiers passing through the area, but also to retain deserters. Other information presented is antidotal (a story about the author's grandfather seeing an escapee soldier in the yard and various soldiers sleeping in the barn). Oral histories stated that Dr. Asa Linthicum (owner of AA-91) took care of wounded soldiers.

#### 1870-1890

Research from the Anne Arundel Historical Society's records, the vertical file had Xerox clippings describing the area:

"Letter from Anne Arundel County. Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun Jessup's Cut, October 21, 1874. Scenery-Handsme Villas-Churches, etc. Having recently paid a brief visit to this flourishing section of Anne Arundel County I will note a few of the attractive places in the neighborhood. Jessup's Cut, which is a station on the Washington branch of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, about eighteen miles from Baltimore, seems to be a lively little place. It contains a fine country store and a

<sup>12</sup> Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Patented Certificate 1555 for Thomas and Elizabeth by Amos A. Williams, 411 ½ acres, 4/9/1853.

<sup>13</sup> Howland, Richard Hubbard, and Spencer, Eleanor Patterson. The Architecture of Baltimore: A Pictorial History. London: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1953. pp. 4, & Hayward and Belfoure, The Baltimore Rowhouse, pp. 10.

<sup>14</sup> Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Deed S.H. Liber 16, Folio 162.

<sup>15</sup> Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Deed G.W. Liber 48, Folio 393; Deed G.W. Liber 63, Folio 212; Deed G.E. Liber 94, Folio 310; Deed WNW Liber 57, Folio 54; and Deed Liber 368, Folio 124.

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convenient and handsome railroad station-house. The country immediately around the station is not very attractive or inviting, but a short distance east of the "Cut," a beautiful landscape opens to view, extending for miles, the various eminence being dotted with fine residences and farm houses. Taking the old Annapolis road, leading east from Jessup's which road, by the way, is macadamized and in first class order, the first place that attracts particular attention is the fine residence of the late K.G. Kilbourn, at one time Speaker of the House of Delegates, and a prominent member of the Baltimore bar. Among other fine edifices in the vicinity are Clifton Seminary, owned by Dr. A.S. Linthicum; the residence of James A. Buchannan, a member of the Baltimore bar; Walter S. Ringgold, the late General Elsey and Major Larned.

Another clipping in the vertical file is from the 1878 Maryland Directory describing Hooversville. "[Hooversville] is 16 miles from Baltimore, and near Jessup's Cut, its shipping point on the B&O Railroad. Climate healthy, business medium, crops and land good; land is mostly cleared, is worth \$100 per acre, produces 20 bus. [bushels of] wheat and an average crop of oats, potatoes, corn and hay. Episcopal Church, no regular minister; M.E. Church South, Rev. J. D. Still, Roman Catholic Church, Father Staunton. Public School Teacher, Wm. Whiteside. The House of Correction, a State Institution, is situated on a beautiful elevation a short distance south. Population 300. J.F. Lowekamp Postmaster." The description provides as well the following: JF Lowekamp as the Railroad Agent and General Merchandise; Robert T. Clarke as the Blacksmith; John T. Clarke as General Merchandise; George W. Hobbs, and SE Kerfe as Ore Banks; AS Linthicum and CB White as physicians; and John Hill as the shoemaker.

From these descriptions, Jessup was a thriving community by the mid 1870s. Construction of the Maryland House of Corrections began in 1874 and the facility was opened in 1879. The facility was located only one-half mile west of Jessup. It was designed by architect George Frederick and in the Italianate style. According to the Maryland Inventory of Historic Places form, the establishment of the House of Corrections parallels the growth of the penal reform movement in Maryland in the 1870s recognizing a need for a place for lesser offenders to serve time, and focus on reform. One may assume that Jessup and its surrounding landscape was viewed as bucolic or ideal to promote the ideas of reformation.

#### 1900-1940

Jessup as a community flowed through with the turn of the century. The surrounding nearby farmers often turned to truck-farming and canning. The canning industry took hold in this area. The turn of the century saw the landscape in Jessup change. Farmers in this section of the county were successful with truck-farms, and because of Jessup's proximity to both rail and road transportation facilities. Camp Meade was established in 1917 when the US Department of War acquired land to develop a training camp. The camp was first known as Camp Annapolis Junction, but became Fort Meade in the 1920s. During World War II, Fort Meade held prisoners of war.

Development of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway further enhanced Jessup as a transportation hub. The BW Parkway was constructed in the 1954 with an exit for MD 175.

The Ringgold House retains integrity of its location, setting, feeling, and association; however, the condition of the property has negatively impacted the integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. While the setting of the property retains many landscape features, such as the oak and cedar lined drive and small brick curb along the drive, exposure to the elements, the use of modern materials in place of historic features, and vandalism have compromised many of the interior features as well as the materials on the exterior. The house has been clad with aluminum siding, which has been partially removed, and reveals the original wood siding and wood shingle siding. The front entry door, porch posts, and associated trim are also original to the house, while historic windows have been broken, historic mantels and chandeliers have been removed, and attempts have been made to remove the historic wood flooring. Many of these historic elements have been damaged as a result of natural or human destruction. The basement under the 1920's era addition is flooded, and may pose a risk to the structure integrity of the house. Interior features such as trim in the front rooms and staircase appear to be intact; however, they are also at risk. As a result of its poor integrity of workmanship, design, and materials, its eligibility for National Register listing is not recommended at this time.

The community of Jessup reached a zenith point in the mid 1870s with its importance as a stop on the B&O railroad, its proximity to the major Baltimore-to- Washington road corridor of Route 1, and its selection as the location for the Maryland House of Corrections as a place of reformation. Research did not indicate that there were historic associations between the Ringgold House and these major events, and though the house is illustrative of what may be viewed as a high-point of the

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Continuation Sheet No. 6

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community's growth, it is not the only or best example of this trend in the immediate area. Therefore, the Ringgold House should not be considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.

Historic research did not indicate that persons of historic significance were associated with the Ringgold House therefore, the Ringgold House is not considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B.

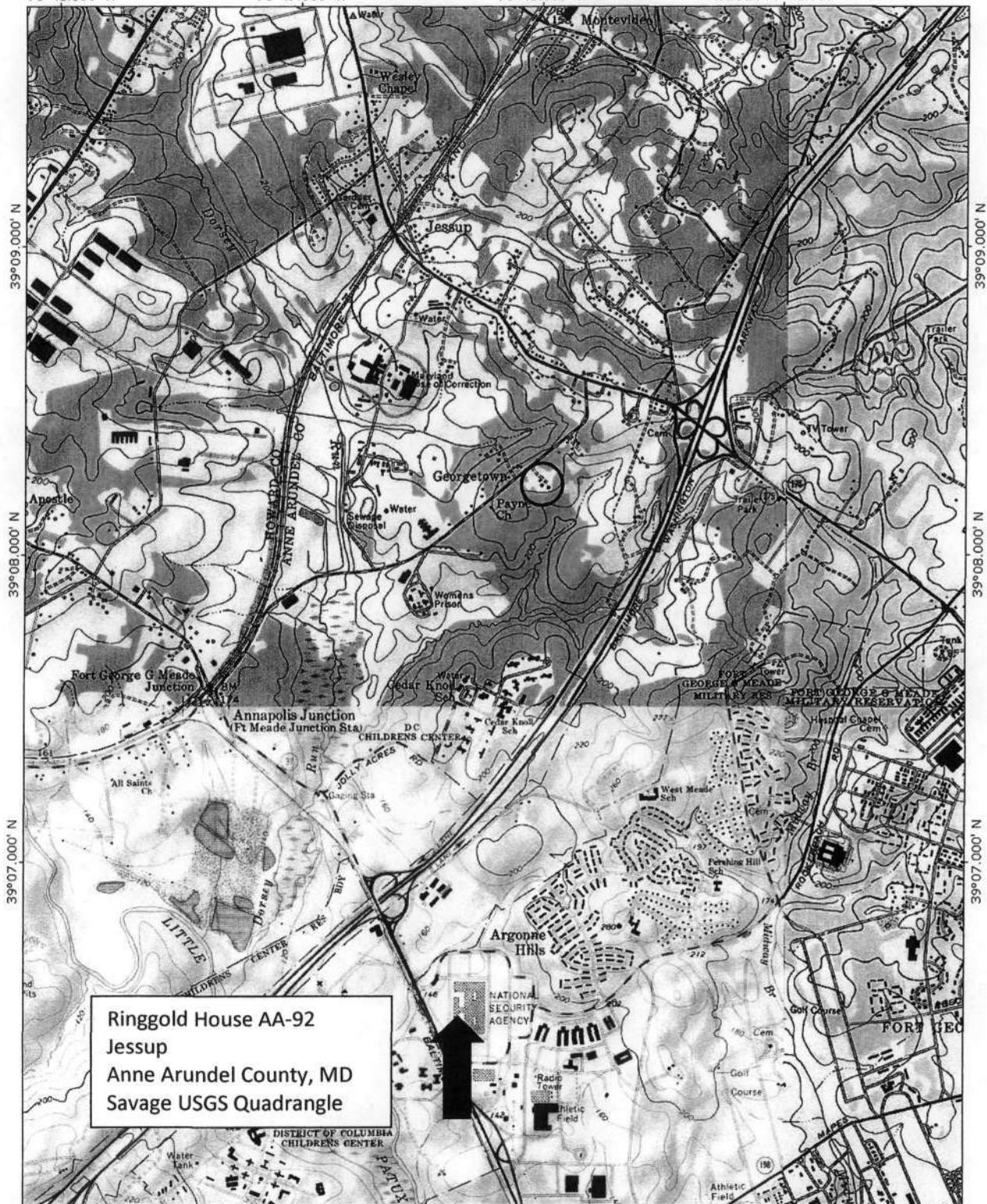
The Ringgold House's architecture embodies distinctive characteristics of a type and period; however, it is not the only or best example of Italianate architecture in the immediate area. Features of the Ringgold House include the dominant rectangular tower, the arched windows in the tower and in the dormer, the overhanging eaves, with paired corbels, and the flared hipped roof are features that define the Italian Villa style. According to the MIHP form, the Ringgold House is one of three remaining. Italianate houses in the Jessup community. As the integrity of its workmanship, design and materials have been compromised due to its condition, it is not recommended that the house is eligible under Criterion C.

In order to assess the archeological potential of the Ringgold House, a Phase I Archeological Survey was conducted in March 2008 by G&O. The report noted that the area around the Ringgold House (Site 18AN1394) investigations uncovered architectural and kitchen-related artifacts as well as three outbuilding foundations. The artifacts were found scattered across the approximate 1.6-acre site and were few in number from each of the positive shovel tests. No subsurface features or deposits were identified in the site area. Based on the lack of intact subsurface deposits, no additional work is recommended for the Ringgold House.

Prepared by: Becky Reich, with edits by Stacy Montgomery Date Prepared: 4/7/2008- 6/17/2009



TOPOI map printed on 11/01/07 from "Mid-Atlantic.tpo" and "Untitled.tpg"  
76°48.000' W 76°47.000' W 76°46.000' W WGS84 76°45.000' W



Ringgold House AA-92  
Jessup  
Anne Arundel County, MD  
Savage USGS Quadrangle

76°48.000' W 76°47.000' W 76°46.000' W WGS84 76°45.000' W  
39°07.000' N 39°08.000' N 39°09.000' N  
0 1000 FEET 0 500 1000 METERS  
1 MILE  
Map created with TOPOI © 2002 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)





AA-92

Ringgold House

Anne Arundel County, MD

Becky Reich, photographer

March 2008

Negatives @ MD SHPO

Taken from Brock Bridge Road, looking  
east up the tree-lined drive to Ringgold  
House





AA-92

Ringgold House

Anne Arundel County, MD

Becky Reich, photographer

March 2008

Negatives @ MD SHPO

View toward Back Bridge  
Road to the west

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AA-92  
Ringgold House  
Anne Arundel County, MD  
Becky Reich, photographer  
March 2008  
Negatives @ HD SHPO

Detail of concreted & brick  
curb lining the driveway





AA-92

Ringsgold House

Anne Arundel County, MD

Becky Reich, photographer

March 2008

Negatives@MD SHPO

Front facade - taken from the yard  
standing <sup>></sup> south of the driveway  
(right of the driveway as you face the  
house).





AA-92

Ringgold House

Anne Arundel County, MD

Becky Reich, photographer

March 2008

Negatives @ MD CHS

Front facade taken from the yard-  
standing north of - or to the left  
of the driveway as you face the  
house.



AA-92

Ringgold House

Anne Arundel County, MD

Becky Reich, Photographer

March 2008

Negatives @ MD SHPD

From clearing in the  
center-front facade



AA-92

Rinconada Street

Annie Pluniel Pluniel, ML

Becker's photography

March 2008

Negatives @ MD SHPO

Closer view to capture  
details of front facade

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AA-92  
Ringgold House  
Anne Arundel County, MD  
Becky Reich, photographer  
March 2008  
Negatives @ MD SHPO

Details of porch



AA-92  
Ringgold House  
Anne Arundel County, MD  
Becky Reich, photographer  
March 2008  
Negatives @ MD SHPO

View of the Ringgold House - looking  
north to the south facade.



AA-92  
Ringgold House  
Anne Arundel County, MD  
Becky Reich, photographer  
March 2008  
Negatives @ MD SHPO

View of the southeast corner. The shingle-clad  
sidegable portion w/ square posts may be  
original section of the house.





AA-92  
Ringgold House  
Anne Arundel County, MD  
Becky Reich, photographer  
March 2008  
Negatives @ MD SHPO

View of the east/rear elevation



AA-9Z  
Ringgold House  
Anne Arundel County, MD  
Becky Reich, photographer  
March 2008  
Negatives @ MDSHPO

View of the northeast  
corner.



AA-92

Ringgold House

Anne Arundel County, MD

Becky Reich, photographer

March 2008

Negatives © MD SHPO

View of the north facade.





AA-92  
Ringgold House  
Anne Arundel County, MD  
Becky Reich, photographer  
March 2008  
Negatives @ MD SHPO

View of the northwest  
corner of the House



AA-92

Ringgold House

Anne Arundel County, MD

Becky Reich, photographer

March 2008

Negatives @ MD SHPO

View of the detached  
garage



AA-92

Ringgold House

Anne Arundel County, MD

Becky Reeh, photographer

March 2008

Negatives @ MD SHPO

View from house south westerly  
towards Brock Bridge Road &  
generally where the house may  
be relocated

AA-92  
Ringgold House  
Jessup

c. 1860-80  
private

This two-and-a-half story, five-bay frame house is one of several in Jessup that were built in the Italian Villa style. The Ringgold house has an unusual three-story central tower with a pyramidal roof with bracketed flaring eaves. The fenestration displays a variety of different shapes and styles.



## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Ringgold House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Brock Bridge Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Jessup

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

VICINITY OF

STATE

MD.

COUNTY

Anne Arundel

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Leo J. Moyer

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

same as above

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

20794

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Anne Arundel County

Liber #: 368

Folio #: 124

STREET &amp; NUMBER

South St.

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Md.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

AA-92

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ringgold House is located on the east side of Brock Bridge Road, off of Jessup Rd (Rt. 175) and near the Women's House of Correction. It is at the end of a dirt lane.

It is a 2 1/2 story, 5 bay frame dwelling under a hipped roof with wide flaring eaves. A rectangular tower rises from the second story giving the structure the appearance of an Italian villa. The principal facade faces west. The wing of the house, which was not examined, is thought to date from before the Civil War and the front part from the late 1870's.

A five-bay open porch with a flat roof and balustrade on the second story extends across the entire front elevation. It has a cornice with dentils and modillions and is supported by stylized posts which create wide segmental arches in each bay.

The main entrance is in the center bay of the front elevation. The paneled door is surrounded by a six-light transom and sidelights. All of the first and second story fenestration has wide board enframements with crossets.

Windows are spaced evenly on the facade. They contain 6/6 light sash on the first two stories. The dormer windows have round headed frames and sash with curved muntins. The tower has a bull's eye window on line with the dormers and three round arched windows, occurring below the roof, on all sides. A one story bay addition joins the north elevation. The flaring hipped roof has a molded bracketed cornice; the roof of the tower is a smaller version of it. Two interior chimneys are situated toward the rear of the roof.

Since the owner was not cooperative, the above description was based largely on photographs, although the site was visited briefly.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

AA-92

**PERIOD****AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

**SPECIFIC DATES** c. 1860 - 1880**BUILDER/ARCHITECT****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Ringgold House is one of three frame dwellings still standing in Jessup which were built in the Italian Villa style (c.1860-80). Other examples are Trusty Friend (AA-123) and the Asa Linthicum House (AA-91); the Rappaport House is a site (AA-82). At one time the town contained six or more frame dwellings of similar design with either towers or cupolas. Some of these are pictured in The Story of Jessup by G. Marie Biggs. The Ringgold house, a rectangular, two and a half story, five bay dwelling has many unusual features. Some of the features typical of the other Italian villas which were built in Jessup are the hipped roof with wide bracketed eaves, the balustraded veranda, the bay window on the side, and the presence of round arched windows. What is unusual is the prominent flare of the roof, the three story center tower, and the fact that the round arched windows are dormers.

This building and the others mentioned reflect the wide spread influence of designs by Alexander Jackson Davis for picturesque dwellings which were published in Cottage Residences (1842) and The Architecture of Country Houses (1850) by Andrew Jackson Downing. The value of these dwellings is heightened because there are so few of them, the style never having really caught on in the rest of Anne Arundel County.

The name Walter S. Ringgold appears in large letters next to the mark showing his residence and 77 acres on the Hopkins map of 1878.

Jessup today is much dominated by the penal institutions located there. Little remains, with the exception of a few buildings, to remind one of the town's pre World War I prosperity.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.62

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marion Morton Carroll- Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Anne Arundel County Dept. of Planning and Zoning

DATE

June, 1978

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Arundel Center

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

MD.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438